

Application serial No. 10/720,067
Examiner: Krishnan S Menon
Art Unit: 1723

Applicant: Chikaroku Yamashita

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application of which claims 1-7 have been canceled and claims 8-12 have been newly added to more explicitly describe the claimed invention. Newly added proposed claims 8-12 are fully supported at FIG. 2, lines 22-26 of page 5. It is believed that no new matter adds by way of amendments to claims or otherwise to the application.

For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-12 are in proper condition for allowance and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

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The Rejections

1. The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In rejecting the above claims, the Examiner stated that the claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with US practice. Appropriate correction is required.

In response thereto, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for pointing out the informality and accordingly canceled claims 1-7 and added new claims 8-12 that conform to the current US patent practice. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

2. The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishida et al. (US-5,451,317, hereinafter Ishida).

Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the above rejections as set forth below.

The present invention is generally directed to a filter system for treating high concentration wastewater. The proposed independent claim 8, among other things, recites at least [a micro filter device, disposed on said filter device such that a surface of said micro filter device is tilted at an angle relative to a surface of said filter device, wherein said tilted surface of said micro filter device faces a wastewater inflow side; and a drain pipe, connected to a gas supply device, disposed at a bottom side of said micro filter device on the wastewater inflow side, for injecting a gas along said tilted surface of said micro filter device]. The advantage of the above feature is that the gas ejected from the drain pipe disposed at the

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bottom of the micro filter device coming in contact with the tilted surface of the micro filter device may provide a better circulation of the high concentration wastewater on the inflow side so that at least blockage of the filter device may be effectively reduced.

Applicant respectfully submits that the newly added proposed claim 8 is allowable over Ishida because Ishida substantially fails to teach or disclose each and every features of the claimed invention. More specifically, Ishida substantially fails to teach or disclose a filter system for treating high concentration wastewater comprising at least **[a micro filter device, disposed on said filter device such that a surface of said micro filter device is tilted at an angle relative to a surface of said filter device, wherein said tilted surface of said micro filter device faces a wastewater inflow side; and a drain pipe, connected to a gas supply device, disposed at a bottom side of said micro filter device on the wastewater inflow side, for injecting a gas along said tilted surface of said micro filter device]** as required by the newly added proposed independent claim 8.

Instead, Ishida substantially discloses a solid-liquid separator (31) for sludge or the like comprising: a treating tank (32); means disposed in the treating tank for establishing a horizontal flow therein; and a plurality of stages of submerged filter systems (35) arranged in the treating tank sequentially in the direction of the horizontal flow. This horizontal flow is used sequentially in the submerged filter systems so that the power to be consumed for establishing a scavenging flow can be reduced (please see the abstract and the entire disclosure of Ishida). However, Ishida substantially fails to teach or disclose any micro filter device disposed on the submerged filter system (35). Therefore, it is clearly evident that Ishida substantially fails to even mention any micro filter device disposed on the submerged filter system (35). Thus, Applicant respectfully